

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A walk aerator for punching a plurality of holes in the ground, which comprises:

(a) a frame supported for movement over the ground by a plurality of wheels that define a wheelbase for the walk aerator;

(b) a handle assembly for allowing a walking operator to guide and steer the frame;

(c) a coring head carried on the frame, the coring head having a plurality of side-by-side tine assemblies that are vertically reciprocal for punching holes in the ground in a coring swath having a predetermined width; and

(d) wherein the wheelbase is substantially equal to or less than the predetermined width of the coring swath.

2. (original) The walk aerator of claim 1, wherein the wheels are located on the frame relative to the coring head so that the wheels in a subsequent pass of the frame over a ground area do not travel over any of the holes formed by the tine assemblies of the coring head in an immediately adjacent coring swath formed in a preceding pass of the frame over the ground area.

3. (original) The walk aerator of claim 1, wherein a pair of laterally spaced wheels are provided on the frame to define the wheelbase.

4. (original) The walk aerator of claim 3, wherein the pair of laterally spaced wheels are longitudinally offset from a third wheel, the pair of laterally spaced wheels and the third wheel being arranged in a tricycle configuration on the frame.

5. (original) The walk aerator of claim 4, wherein the third wheel is pivotally carried on the frame, and wherein the handle assembly is operatively coupled to the third wheel for steering the frame.

6 - 21. (canceled)

22. (new) An aerator, which comprises:

(a) a frame supported for rolling over the ground by a plurality of rotatable members, at least one of the rotatable members comprising a wheel that is steerable by pivoting the wheel about a steering axis;

(b) a steering control carried on the frame which may be gripped and pivoted by an operator to pivot the steerable wheel about the steering axis to steer the frame;

(c) a laterally extending array of coring tines carried on the frame for punching aeration holes in the ground and for leaving soil cores on top of the ground;

(d) wherein the operator when gripping the steering control is positioned relative to the coring tines such that the operator will not walk on any of the soil cores left on top of the ground to avoid crushing any of the soil cores left on the ground; and

(e) wherein the rotatable members are positioned on the frame ahead of the coring tines taken with respect to a forward direction of movement of the frame, wherein the rotatable

members collectively provide a plurality of ground engaging surfaces that engage the ground as the rotatable members roll over the ground, and wherein lateral outermost edges of the ground engaging surfaces of the rotatable members do not substantially laterally extend beyond lateral outermost edges of the array of coring tines to avoid having any of the rotatable members roll over any of the soil cores left on the ground.

23. (new) The aerator of claim 22, wherein the steering control comprises a steering handle operatively coupled to the steerable wheel and extending forwardly past a front end of the frame, the steering handle being gripped and pivoted by an operator who walks on the ground in advance of the frame and in advance of the array of coring tines.

24. (new) The aerator of claim 22, wherein the rotatable members further include a pair of wheels that are spaced fore and aft on the frame from the steerable wheel.

25. (new) The aerator of claim 24, wherein the steerable wheel comprises a front wheel on a front end of the frame and the pair of wheels comprise a pair of rear wheels on a rear end of the frame.

26. (new) An aerator, which comprises:

(a) a frame that carries a plurality of rotatable ground engaging members for collectively supporting the frame for movement over the ground;

(b) an aerating mechanism that punches aeration holes in the ground and that leaves soil cores on the ground in a swath behind the frame as the frame moves forwardly over the ground; and

(c) wherein all of the rotatable ground engaging members are located on the frame in a position such that none of the

ground engaging members roll over any of the soil cores left behind the frame in a current pass of the frame over an area of ground being aerated or in an immediately adjacent preceding pass of the frame over the area of ground being aerated.

27. (new) The aerator of claim 26, wherein the frame includes a steering handle for being gripped and manipulated by an operator who walks on the ground and who pivots the handle to steer the frame, the operator when gripping and using the steering handle to steer the frame also being located relative to the frame in a position such that the operator does not walk over any of the soil cores left behind the frame in a current pass of the frame over an area of ground being aerated or in an immediately adjacent preceding pass of the frame over the area of ground being aerated.